Acquisition of land for setting up of a wildlife sanctuary in Delhi

*357. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that land which is barren and in close proximity to the shooting range of the armed forces has been acquired in Delhi for setting up of a wildlife sanctuary;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for selecting such a site;

(c) what is the estimated expenditure to be incurred on the project; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to develop the land to suit the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) Gaonsabha land in villages of Asola, Sahurpur and Maidangarhi, which forms part of ridge forests and has been rendered barren over the years due to increasing human population, has been declared a wildlife sanctuary. The objective of setting up this sanctuary is to rejuvenate the ridge forests and to develop its faunal, floral and geomorphological and ecological potential for health and recreation of the urban population.

The area is not in close proximity of the shooting range of the Armed Forces.

(c) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 2.93 crores. This amount does not include the cost of acquisition of land.

(d) The steps proposed for development of the sanctuary include construction of peripheral wall, construction of 2 deep tube wells and 27 shallow ponds and foot path to facilitate visitors' movement.

New deposit scheme for retiring Government Employees

*358. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to introduce a new deposit scheme for retiring Central and State Government employees at selected branches of public sector banks all over the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of such a scheme; and

(c) by when it is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) Deposit Scheme for Retiring Government Employees, 1989 has been introduced from 1st July, 1989. The scheme is operated through selected branches of the public sector banks. The salient features of the scheme are as follows :—

(i) The scheme is open for investment by retired/retiring Central/State Government employees.

(ii) Investments may be made upto the maximum of total of the retirement benefits received by such employees.

(iii) A depositor may open only one account under this scheme, minimum deposit being Rs. 1000/-.

(iv) A depositor may at his option, withdraw the entire balance or part thereof after the expiry of 3 years from the date of deposit.

(v) Deposits carry interest at the rate of 9 per cent per annum. The interest earned on the deposit is exempt from income-tax.

(vi) Premature withdrawal is allowed after expiry of one year from the date of deposit, subject to conditions indicated in the scheme.